

Introduced by Senators Kehoe and Figueroa
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chan and Liu)

January 19, 2005

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9— Relative to heart disease.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 9, as introduced, Kehoe. American Heart Month.

This measure would recognize the month of February 2005, as American Heart Month in California in order to raise awareness of the effect of heart disease on women. The measure would also recognize February 4, 2005, as Wear Red for Women Day in California and urge all citizens to become aware of the vital issues of women's heart health by wearing and displaying the color red on that day. This measure would also urge public support for Go Red for Women events planned in their community during American Heart Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the nation's
2 number one killer, and
3 WHEREAS, CVD claims the lives of more women than men
4 each year; and
5 WHEREAS, Since 1984, more than 500,000 women per year
6 die from CVD, equal to nearly one death every minute; and
7 WHEREAS, Within six years after a recognized heart attack:
8 35 percent of women will have another heart attack, 14 percent
9 will develop chest pain, 11 percent will have a stroke, 46 percent
10 will be disabled with heart failure, and 6 percent will experience
11 sudden cardiac death; and

1 WHEREAS, African-American and Mexican-American
2 women have higher heart disease and stroke risk factors than
3 White women of comparable socioeconomic status; and

4 WHEREAS, Most women do not realize that CVD is their
5 greatest health threat; and

6 WHEREAS, Stroke is the nation's number three killer and the
7 number one cause of permanent, long-term disability; and

8 WHEREAS, Each year approximately 40,000 more women
9 than men have a stroke; and

10 WHEREAS, Eleven percent of women will have a stroke
11 within six months after a heart attack, 25 percent of women die
12 within one year of their first stroke, and 53 percent of women
13 under 65 years of age who have a stroke die within eight years;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Symptoms of CVD in women generally are
16 recognized later in life when other health challenges may also be
17 present; and

18 WHEREAS, In women, one out of 2.5 deaths are due to CVD
19 and only 38 percent of women report that their doctors have
20 discussed CVD with them when discussing their health; and

21 WHEREAS, Sixty-three percent of women who die suddenly
22 from coronary heart disease had no previous symptoms of the
23 disease; and

24 WHEREAS, Each year the economic burden due to CVD is
25 estimated to be over \$360 billion nationwide and the economic
26 burden in California is estimated to be over \$45 billion; and

27 WHEREAS, The public does not recognize the fact that each
28 year CVD claims more lives than the next seven causes of death
29 combined; and

30 WHEREAS, The American Heart Association is the largest
31 voluntary, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to reduce
32 disability and death from heart disease and stroke; and

33 WHEREAS, The American Heart Association is committed to
34 conducting and supporting medical research that advances
35 knowledge in the areas of prevention and treatment of CVD; and

36 WHEREAS, The American Heart Association strives to
37 inform all citizens about the critical importance of tools and
38 skills that will increase the survival rate of women from heart
39 disease and stroke; and

1 WHEREAS, The American Heart Association launched the
2 Go Red for Women initiative to help raise awareness of women
3 and heart disease and will focus on that theme during American
4 Heart Month in February and on National Wear Red for Women
5 Day, Friday, February 4, 2005; now, therefore, be it

6 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
7 *thereof concurring*, That the month of February 2005, be
8 recognized as American Heart Month in California in order to
9 raise awareness of the effect of heart disease on women; and be it
10 further

11 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes February 4, 2005, as
12 Wear Red for Women Day in California and urges all citizens to
13 become aware of the vital issues of women's heart health by
14 wearing and displaying the color red on that day; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the Legislature urges public support for Go
16 Red for Women events planned in their community during
17 American Heart Month; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
19 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.